

SUMMARY

Records of past and present distribution of the Ghost Bat, *Macroderma gigas* (Dobson) in Western Australia show that the range is shrinking and the animal is now restricted to the arid country in the Western Desert, and also to the North-West and the Kimberley Division. In Sub-Recent times it occurred much further south, and as far as the Margaret River. The bat is a cave-inhabiting species and it has taken also to live in abandoned mine shafts in the Pilbara district. It feeds on small mammals (mainly rodents and small marsupials, and to a lesser degree on the smaller bats), small birds (mainly Budygeryghs and Owllet-Nightjars), reptiles and insects. Small embryos are found in females in the Pilbara district in early August and the young are born towards the end of October or early in November. In the Kimberley Division the breeding season is earlier.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Green Pygmy-Goose near Perth.—On March 4, 1967, accompanied by Arthur Tydeman, I visited Jandalup Lake, which lies about 3 miles inland and 5 miles north of North Beach. At approximately 9 a.m. I saw two very small, pretty ducks with white face patches below the eyes and heavily barred breasts and flanks; the necks and upper-parts looked a dark brown from where we were stationed not more than a hundred yards away.

I immediately identified these as Green Pygmy-Geese, *Nettion pulchellus*, as I had been familiar with this species only a week previously, and in the company of Don Tulloch, at Knuckeyes Lagoon near Darwin. My companion confirmed the identification and *pulchellus* was added to our list without further thought. It was not until I was told of this bird's rare occurrence in South-Western Australia that I realised I had seen anything unusual. The birds did not appear to be present on the following day.

—B. D. BOND, Malacca, Malaysia.

[Mr. Bond discussed this observation with me. The only specimen of this species collected in the South-West was taken by T. L. Riggert at Moora on January 8, 1966. Other observations are summarised in the *Birds of Western Australia*, Serrenty and Whittell, 4th. edn., 1967: 147.—D.L.S.]

Another Record of the Spur-Winged Plover.—The Spur-winged Plover, *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*, has been recorded in the South-West of this State only rarely and I submit this record of a solitary bird which I believe to be of this species.

It was on the edge of the sand flat near shallow water just inside the entrance to Wilson Inlet, approximately four miles from Denmark, during the last week of December 1965. Other birds in the vicinity included Silver Gulls, Crested Terns, sandpipers and a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers.

I was not sure of the identity of the species at the time, whether it was the Spur-winged or the very similar Masked Plover (*L. miles*). However, after referring to the drawings of both species, done by Mr. Peter Slater, I feel certain that the bird I saw was the Spur-winged Plover.

(Mrs.) N. GRAY, Claremont.

Black Falcon in Metropolitan Area.—At my home in Wembley I looked up into the eastern sky at 7.20 p.m. on January 3, 1967, and saw what at first glance appeared to be a crow. The bird was